

# **MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING**

Office of Services to the Aging via Conference Call

7109 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

January 18, 2008

## **Minutes**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and reiterated the role of the Commission, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ROLL CALL**

The roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

### **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Owen Bieber, Cheryl Bollinger, Mary Gardner, Rose Gill, Jerutha Kennedy, Chun-Keung Leung, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Thomas Rau, Amne Talab, Ramesh Verma, William Walters IV, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

### **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)**

None

### **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)**

None

### **OSA STAF PRESENT**

Bonnie Graham, Cindy Albrecht, Eric Berke, Sharon Gire, and Cherie Mollison

### **VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT**

Amy Mills

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Wilson made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

### **APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Commissioner Bieber made the motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2007, meeting. Commissioner Walters seconded the motion with a correction to the date of the next State Advisory meeting from January 10 to January 17, 2008. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

### **INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS**

None

### **OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Gire updated the Commission on the following:

- State Budget
- The Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) has decided to disallow Medicaid match for services to residents of long term care facilities served under the LTC Ombudsman program.

- Area Agency on Aging 3-B is organizationally separating from Burnham Brook Senior Center entity.
- Executive Directives enacted because of the state budget crisis have been modified to allow some meetings and out-of state travel.
- BCBS legislation is scheduled to be heard by the State Legislature next week.
- A visit to the Lake Orion Senior Center.
- Future attendance at the rededication ceremony of the Clinton Township Wellness Center.

A brief discussion followed on the change in CMS's position regarding Medicaid match for the LTC Ombudsman program and the impact of that decision. Director Gire noted the Commission will be informed of any changes.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Approval of Substantive Amendment to Region III-A Area Agency on Aging Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for FY 2008**

Eric Berke, OSA staff, requested approval for a substantive amendment to the FY 2008 AIP for Region III-A Area Agency on Aging (AAA), which serves Kalamazoo County. Mr. Berke stated the AAA is seeking approval to provide Case Coordination and Support (CCS) services as a direct service. Currently the CCS provider operates primarily in the urban and more populated areas of Kalamazoo County and the AAA wants to extend service in the most rural townships in order to assure county-wide availability.

Mr. Berke noted a public hearing was conducted on December 12, 2007, with no opposition. OSA has reviewed the proposed amendment and found that all procedural requirements have been met. Mr. Berke reviewed Appendix J – Waiver for Direct Provision of Service/Case Coordination and Support, work plan, and direct service budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the Substantive Amendment to Region III-A AIP for FY 2008. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Walters. Commission approved with a 14-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

### **Approval of Elder Rights Coalition**

Cherie Mollison, OSA staff, gave a brief history of the grant to Elder Law of Michigan, Inc. approved by the Commission in October 2007, for operation of the Legal Hotline for Michigan Seniors (LHMS). Ms. Mollison noted that one of the requirements under this grant is to coordinate services among aging, legal services, and private bar resources around elder abuse, financial exploitation and consumer issues. Ms. Mollison stated in order to fulfill that requirement ELM is planning an Elder Rights Summit on May 27, 2008 to craft a comprehensive, integrated legal and aging services plan.

ELM is requesting the Commission's endorsement of and participation in Michigan's first Elder Rights Coalition (ERC) Summit. Ms. Mollison stated that by approving this request OSA and ELM will be permitted to use the name of the Commission to invite delegates to the Summit. ELM is also asking for Commissioners to participate in the planning process for the Summit.

A motion was made by Commissioner Newport to approve the endorsement of and participation in Michigan's first Elder Rights Coalition (ERC). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner Gardner and Commissioner Kennedy volunteered to serve on the committee to plan the Elder Rights Summit.

A brief discussion followed.

## **INFORMATION AND COMMENTS**

### **State Advisory Council (SAC) Update:**

Commissioner Walters, Chairperson of the SAC, gave a report stating the Council is continuing to hold SAC meetings via conference call and it is working well.

Commissioner Walters noted that a presentation on Michigan senior centers was given by Ms. Lannette Amon at the January 17, 2008, SAC meeting. Ms. Amon is a member of the Michigan Association of Senior Centers and president of the Waterford Senior Center. Discussion followed on the definition and function of a senior center. SAC members also inquired on the Commission's role regarding nursing home closures. Chairperson Kennedy noted she may be able to provide additional information regarding efforts being made by associations and government officials in the Detroit area regarding nursing home closures and will pass that along to OSA for a possible presentation.

Commissioner Walters noted SAC membership applications are due February 1, 2008. Every SAC member needs to complete the application form if they would like to be reappointed given the change in by-laws that extend terms of membership.

Commissioner Walters, Kennedy, and Bollinger will serve as the panel for reviewing the SAC applications and developing recommendations for membership.

Commissioner Wilson noted the Friends House Adult Day Care will be hosting open houses in Warren and Clinton Township during January for their adult day care services.

Commissioner Newport encouraged Commissioners to take advantage of opportunities to participate in the Community for a Lifetime recognition presentations in the communities recently recognized by the Commission.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 a.m. on February 15, 2008, at Letts Community Center, Lansing.

The next meeting of the State Advisory Council will be in February, a date has not been set. Commissioner Kennedy acknowledged that she will be the guest Commissioner at the next meeting.

## **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Chairperson Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.